

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DJAMESON:MAR
APPROVED BY NEA:ARDBY
COM:MTHOMPSON
S/S:R PERITO

-----180307 087464 /61

O 180242Z FEB 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 037509 TOSEC 020102

EXDIS, FOR ATHERTON FROM DAY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, US, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: COMPUTERS TO LIBYA

REF: SECTO 2025

1. ALL COMPUTERS REQUIRE LICENSES OR GENERAL APPROVAL FROM DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. IN MAKING LICENSING JUDGMENTS COMMERCE CONSIDERS RISK OF DIVERSION TO PROSCRIBED DESTINATIONS, ACTIVITIES OF END USER, AND PROPOSED END USE FOR ALL LICENSE APPLICATIONS AND, FOR ADVANCED COMPUTERS, ALSO CONSULTS DOD, STATE, AND ERDA FOR NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY AND NUCLEAR IMPLICATIONS OF TRANSACTION.

2. COMMERCE HAS REVIEWED ITS 1976 LICENSING RECORDS FOR CASE-BY-CASE SALES AND FOUND THAT NO LICENSES WERE ISSUED FOR COMPUTER EXPORTS TO A LIBYAN MILITARY ENTITY. EXPORT LICENSES TOTALLING DOLS 2.25 MILLION (THE LARGEST

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DOLS 550,000) WERE ISSUED FOR COMPUTERS FOR CIVILIAN USES IN SUCH AREAS AS PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, GEOPHYSICAL MAPPING, AND BUSINESS. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE SPECIFICALLY WHETHER ANY OF THESE COMPUTERS WOULD BE ADAPTABLE TO "MILITARY USE". IT SEEMS LIKELY ON THE FACE OF IT THAT SOME COULD BE USED BY THE MILITARY FOR SOME OF THE SAME PURPOSES CIVILIAN ENTITIES WOULD USE THEM FOR.

WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO DOUBT THAT ANY WERE IMPORTED BY LIBYA STRICTLY FOR MILITARY-TYPE USES, HOWEVER.

3. A MORE LIBERAL BULK LICENSING PROCEDURE PERMITS SHIPMENT OF MEDIUM AND SMALL SIZE COMPUTERS TO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING LIBYA. AT LEAST ONE MAJOR U.S. COMPUTER MANUFACTURER IS AUTHORIZED TO USE THIS PROCEDURE FOR SHIPMENTS TO LIBYA BUT THE VOLUME OF SUCH SHIPMENTS IN 1976, IF ANY, IS UNKNOWN. A CHANGE IS UNDER CONSIDERATION THAT WOULD EXCLUDE LIBYA FROM THIS PROCEDURE WHILE MAKING EGYPT, ALGERIA, SUDAN, SYRIA, AND NORTH YEMEN ELIGIBLE. THESE COUNTRIES ARE NOT NOW ELIGIBLE BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH U.S. WHEN THE BULK LICENSING PROCEDURE WAS ESTABLISHED. THIS ANOMALY EXISTS BECAUSE THE PROCEDURE HAS NOT BEEN REVISED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IS THE REASON FOR THE CHANGES PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY COMMERCE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT EXPORTERS OF COMPUTERS TO EGYPT CAN STILL AVAIL THEMSELVES OF CASE-BY-CASE APPLICATIONS, WHICH ARE NOT EXCLUDED BECAUSE OF INELIGIBILITY FOR BULK LICENSE.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, SALES, COMPUTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE037509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DJAMESON:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770057-0957
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770226/aaaaaxgr.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 92927cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 SECTO 2025
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3279526
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMPUTERS TO LIBYA
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, LY, US, (VANCE, CYRUS)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/92927cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009